Appl. No. To be Assigned Amdt. dated November 24, 2003 Preliminary Amendment

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have amended the first sentence of the specification to set forth the priority claim for the instant application. Applicants have amended the claims to delete claims 13-31 which were elected for prosecution in the parent application.

After entry of the amendments, claims 1-12 and 32-46 will be pending. These claims correspond to the Group I claims which were not elected in the parent.

Applicants believe the proposed amendments to the specification and claims add no new matter and respectfully request their entry.

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

Reg. No. 46,946

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Attachments FJM:fjm 60089088 v1